

# McHenry County IL Genealogical Society

www.mcigs.org



## Summer Genealogy Conference

Saturday, July 7, 2018  
8 am – 3:30 pm

### Conference Location:

McHenry County College  
8900 Route 14  
Crystal Lake, IL 60014



## McHenry County IL Genealogical Society Summer Conference July 7, 2018

**Registration / browsing:** 8:00 a.m.

**Programs:** 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

### Conveniently located at:

McHenry County College  
8900 Route 14, Crystal Lake, IL

A box lunch is included in the registration cost. Vegetarian and **Gluten Free (GF)** choices are also available.

The syllabus link will be emailed to each registrant 2 weeks prior to the conference. [A printed syllabus will not be available.](#)

Each registrant will receive 5 Door Prize tickets. However, you **MUST be PRESENT** to win.

Browse the exhibitor's area to find information on other societies, books, maps, and material related to genealogy.

Free wifi so bring your tablets and laptops.

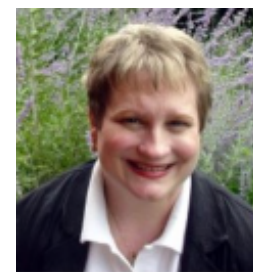
### Register online today at:

[www.mcigs.org/conference](http://www.mcigs.org/conference), or mail in your check with the attached registration form.

For further information, email Claudia Conroy at [registration@mcigs.org](mailto:registration@mcigs.org) or visit our web site: [www.mcigs.org](http://www.mcigs.org) for additional details.

## About Our Speakers

**Judy Russell**, A genealogist with a law degree, Judy G. Russell is a lecturer, educator and writer who enjoys helping others understand a wide variety of genealogical issues, including the interplay between genealogy and the law. Blogging as *The Legal Genealogist*, she has attended the National Institute on Genealogical Research at the National Archives in Washington, D.C., and completed both Elizabeth Shown Mills' course in Advanced Methodology and Evidence Analysis and Thomas W. Jones' course in Writing and Publishing for Genealogists at the Institute of Genealogy & Historical Research (IGHR) at Samford University.



**Lisa Ann Alzo, M.F.A.**, An avid genealogist for 26 years, Lisa currently teaches online genealogy courses for Family Tree University and the National Institute for Genealogical Studies. She is the recipient of the 2002 Mary Zirin Prize given by the Association for Women in Slavic Studies to recognize the achievements of independent scholars, and is a frequently invited speaker for national conferences, genealogical and historical societies. Lisa has authored a number of books, including: *The Family Tree Polish, Czech and Slovak Genealogy Guide*, *Finding Your Slovak Ancestors*, *Cleveland Czechs and Slovak Pittsburgh*.

**David Rencher AG, CG, FUGA, FIGRS**, is employed as the Chief Genealogical Officer for FamilySearch. A professional genealogist since 1977, he is one of the rare few who have earned both credentials: Accredited Genealogist<sup>CM</sup> with ICAPGen<sup>SM</sup> in Ireland research and Certified Genealogist<sup>®</sup> with the Board for Certification of Genealogists<sup>®</sup>. He is a past-president of the Federation of Genealogical Societies.



**Curt B. Witcher** is the Allen County Library's Senior Manager for Special Collections, a job which entails managing The Genealogy Center, serving as general curator for that institution's Rare and Fine Book Collection, and supervising the new Lincoln Financial Collection's Lincoln Library. He has worked at the Allen County Public Library for more than thirty-five years. Curt is a member of the Genealogy Committee of the American Library Association, a past chair of the association's History Section, a former president of both the Federation of Genealogical Societies and the National Genealogical Society, and the founding president of the Indiana Genealogical Society.

### Genealogy Help Desk

**Do you have a specific question about your family history research?** Sign up after you check in at the conference to reserve a time slot for one-on-one assistance with our Genealogy Help Desk volunteers. These 15-minute sessions are held during the breaks and lunch period. For further information go to [www.mcigs.org/conference](http://www.mcigs.org/conference).

# Conference Program

More detailed session descriptions may be found at [www.mcigs.org](http://www.mcigs.org)

8:00	<b>Registration. Browsing and continental breakfast. Sign up for your Genealogy Help Desk Session.</b>		
9:00	<b><i>That First Trip to the Courthouse</i></b> Learn how to prepare for that trip, the rules of the road, what to expect, what to ask for, and how to be sure you'll be welcomed back the next time.	Judy Russell	1A
	<b><i>Ten Ways to Jumpstart Your Eastern European Research</i></b> Discover which records to tap into to discover your ancestral village, how history impacts genealogical research, tips for contacting relatives and writing to foreign archives.	Lisa Alzo	1B
	<b><i>Applied Methodology for Irish Genealogical Collections</i></b> With the myriad number of Irish genealogical collections available, which ones should be searched for your area of research and what strategies should be employed to maximize the opportunity for success? This session outlines these solid strategies for finding Irish ancestors buried deep in these collections.	David Rencher	1C
	<b><i>Doing Effective Genealogical Research in Libraries</i></b> This talk focuses on: 1. Understanding the 4 major types of libraries, 2. Organizing one's data effectively, 3. Developing techniques for "scouting" a research facility before arriving, and 4. Functioning well in a wide variety of research facilities.	Curt Witcher	1D
10:00	<b>Break (30 minutes) – Attend a Genealogy Help Desk Session. Make your door prize selection and visit the vendors.</b>		
10:30	<b><i>NARA Mythbusters: Your Family IS in the Archives</i></b> Myth statements stop genealogists from breaking down all kinds of brick walls. Using the wealth of information in NARA records, join the mythbusters to find the treasures the National Archives holds for your family.	Judy Russell	2A
	<b><i>Tracing Your Immigrant Ancestors</i></b> America is a nation of immigrants, comprised of people who left home to find a better life for themselves and their families. This talk will show you tips and tricks for locating and searching passenger lists and other key immigration documents both on and offline to help trace your roots.	Lisa Alzo	2B
	<b><i>Irish Immigration/Emigration</i></b> This session will focus on the North American records you may not have considered for locating the home of your Irish ancestors plus some Irish records you might try that have been found to give links to North America.	David Rencher	2C
	<b><i>Using United States Government Documents for Genealogical Research</i></b> This talk serves to un-puzzle federal government documents, provide the researcher with a sufficient working knowledge of government document access tools and indices, and demonstrate how to incorporate these documents into one's research patterns.	Curt Witcher	2D
11:30	<b>Lunch - Attend a Genealogy Help Desk Session. Make your Door Prize selection and browse the vendor area.</b>		
1:00	<b><i>Where There Is –or Isn't –a Will</i></b> Often there isn't a will, however there's still a probate. Understanding the process and find the records created when our ancestors died can help break down those brick walls.	Judy Russell	3A
	<b><i>Demystifying Eastern European Research</i></b> Border changes, language differences, political considerations, and exotic-sounding surnames often complicate the research process. This session covers the most common myths/misconceptions and how to work around them.	Lisa Alzo	3B
	<b><i>Irish Census and Census Substitutes</i></b> This session identifies the various surviving record sources that will help in reconstructing families during the 17 <sup>th</sup> and 18 <sup>th</sup> centuries, plus discuss the existence of name lists and census substitutes vital to successful 19 <sup>th</sup> and early 20 <sup>th</sup> century research.	David Rencher	3C
	<b><i>German Migration into the American Midwest</i></b> This presentation provides a basic strategy for uncovering information about why Germans migrated to the Midwest and the various routes they took to their destinations. Migration and settlement patterns are explored through published sources. Careful research into local history data and sources is emphasized as well as the use of unusual sources.	Curt Witcher	3D
2:00	<b>Break (30 minutes) – Check to see if you've won a door prize! Last chance to visit the vendors.</b>		
2:30	<b><i>ABCs of DNA</i></b> Learn about the 3 major test types – YDNA, mitochondrial (mtDNA) and the new autosomal DNA testing – and see what each offer to the genealogist.	Judy Russell	4A
	<b><i>Crossing the Pond: Successful Strategies for Researching Eastern European Ancestors</i></b> Traditional methods and online resources for tracking ancestors both in the U.S. and the old country will be discussed, as well as techniques for overcoming obstacles and problems faced during the research process.	Lisa Alzo	4B
	<b><i>FamilySearch Collections – Tips and Tricks</i></b> This session illuminates tips and tricks to finding and searching various record collections in FamilySearch. Learn new techniques for searching the historical record collections, compiled genealogies and the Family History Library Catalog.	David Rencher	4C
	<b><i>Why the Allen County Public Library's Genealogy Center? An Overview of Resources for Research</i></b> This presentation highlights resources at the Genealogy Center of the Allen County Library in Fort Wayne and on their website, genealogycenter.org.	Curt Witcher	4D

**CIRCLE EACH SESSION YOU WISH TO ATTEND**

<b>Session One</b> (9:00 am)	1A	1B	1C	1D
<b>Session Two</b> (10:30 am)	2A	2B	2C	2D
<b>Session Three</b> (1:00 pm)	3A	3B	3C	3D
<b>Session Four</b> (2:30 pm)	4A	4B	4C	4D

Early member registration: 2/15/18 – 6/15/18 \$50.00  
 - Non-members \$60.00  
 Registrations postmarked 6/16/18+ and Walk-ins \$75.00  
 (No lunch for registrations received after 6/16/18 or walk-ins)

**\$20 Fee will be charged for cancellations prior to 6/16/2018. No Refunds after 6/16/2018.**

**PLEASE PRINT:**

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_  
 STREET: \_\_\_\_\_  
 CITY, ST, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
 PHONE: \_\_\_\_\_  
 EMAIL: \_\_\_\_\_

Box Lunch includes sandwich with lettuce and tomato, chips, dessert, coffee, tea or water. **Gluten free (GF)** choices are included below.

Beef  Ham  Turkey  Vegetarian  
 Beef (GF)  Ham (GF)  Turkey (GF)  Vegetarian (GF)

**TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail Registration Form with your payment to:  
 McHenry County IL Genealogical Society, P.O. Box 184, Crystal Lake, IL 60039-0184**